

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ECOSOC, UN

SUBJECT: 57TH ECOSOC - ECONOMIC COMMITTEE:

ITEM 18 (REGIONAL COOPERATION)

SUMMARY: GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 18 CONCLUDED AND REPORTS OF RECS NOTED. RESOLUTION ADOPTED CHANGING NAME OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST (ECAFE) TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP). ITEM LEFT OPEN FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS ON ROLE OF RECS AS EXECUTING AGENCIES FOR UNDP PROJECTS AND ROLE OF RECS IN PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. FIVE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES MADE INTRODUCTIONS TO REPORTS OF THEIR COMMISSIONS. MOST STIMULATING WAS PRESENTATION BY STANOVNIK OF ECE WHO STRESSED CHANGED NATURE OF ECONOMIC SITUATION POSED BY ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, REAPPRAISAL OF ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INCREASED ATTENTION TO SOCIAL FACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT UN PROGRAMS SHOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSIVE AND ADAPTED TO THIS NEW SITUATION. EXECUTIVE

SECRETARIES OF RECS IN DEVELOPING REGIONS PREFERRED TO MONETARY, FOOD AND ENERGY CRISIS AND TO POPULATION QUESTIONS. ALL RECOGNIZED THAT PROGRAM OF RECS SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE AND GAVE EXAMPLES OF HOW THEIR PROGRAMS WERE BEING SHAPED IN LIGHT OF CHANGED CONDITIONS. THEY MADE SPECIAL MENTION OF RECS CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL PROGRAMS, NOTABLY FORTHCOMING WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

2. MARAMIS (ECAFE) AND INGLESIAS (ECLA) MADE IMPRESSIVE STATEMENTS CONCERNING REORGANIZATION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND WORK PROGRAMS TO MAKE THEM MORE EFFECTIVE.

3. STATEMENT BY AL-ATTAR (ECWA) WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESS-LIKE. HE OUTLINED THE WORK PROGRAM ADOPTED BY THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION AND PLANS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED DISPARITY OF INCOME WITHIN THE REGION AND THE FACT THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES DISPOSE OF CONSIDERABLE WEALTH. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING CREATION OF ECWA.

4. OVER 40 DELEGATES INTERVENED IN GENERAL DEBATE. COMMENTS WERE UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE REGARDING ACTIVITIES AND ORIENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS DIRECTING MAIN PORTION OF REMARKS TO COMMISSIONS OF WHICH THEY ARE MEMBERS. THE ONLY CRITICISMS WERE MADE BY CERTAIN LDCS WHICH REGRETTED THAT RECS HAD NOT MADE PROVISION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM OF ACTION OF 6TH SPECIAL GA. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES REPLIED THAT PROGRAM OF ACTION ADOPTED TOO RECENTLY FOR COMMISSIONS TO TAKE ACTION BUT ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN THAT THIS WOULD BE GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD APPROVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS IN COORDINATION, PRIORITIES AND REFINEMENT OF PROGRAMS.

5. CHINESE DELEGATE DESCRIBED CREATION OF ECWA AT 55TH ECOSOC AS VICTORY IN MAJOR FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM. HE DESCRIBED SPECIAL GA AND DECLARATION OF PROGRAM OF ACTION AS DOCUMENTS OF FAR REACHING SIGNIFICANCE, PARTICULARLY IN EMPHASIS OF SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES, THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION IN SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS ON BASIS OF EQUALITY, SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, THE RIGHT TO NATIONALIZE, THE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

6. USSR SAW ECE CARRYING ON FRUITFUL ROLE IN EUROPE UNDER UMBRELLA OF DETENTE. AFFIRMED FOUR ECE PRIORITIES AS CORRECT: TRADE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, LONG TERM PLANNING

AND FORECASTING, AND ENVIRONMENT. FAVORED CONTINUATION ECE TRADE WORK ON MOST FAVORED NATION AND NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS AS IMPORTANT TO EAST/WEST RELATIONS. NOTED THAT ECAFE CARRYING OUT ITS OWRK IN IMPROVING AREA OF FAR EAST "PARTICULARLY INDOCHINA". NOTED ECLA EFFORT TO STUDY EXPERIENCES OF COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND ENDORESED THIS ACTION; SUPPORTED ECWA; ENDORSED DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN UNITY; NOTED STRENGTHENING OF THE WORK OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS IN POPULATION AND EXPRESSED CAUTION AND THE NEED FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES TO HOLD APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS.

7. US DELEGATE NOTED FORTUNATE POSITION IN PARTICIPATING AS FULL MEMBER OF ECE, ECLA AND ECAFE AND WORKED CLOSELY AS AN OBSERVER WITH ECA. NOTED ACTIVITIES OF ECWA.

8. US REFERRED TO COMMON THEME IN ALL REPORTS CONCERNING CHANGED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WITH PROBLEMS OF INFLATION, FOOD AND ENERGY SHORTAGES AND POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT PRESSURES. PRAISED THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS MADE BY STANOVNIK. MADE POINTS IN POSITION PAPERS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS. NOTED CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMMISSIONS TO WORLD POPULATION AND FOOD CONFERENCES AND SPECIAL ATTENTION TO IMPACT OF THE NEW ENERGY SITUATION ON THE ECONOMICS OF COUNTRIES AND REGIONS. REFFERED WITH APPROVAL TO ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO COORDINATION, STREAM-LINING OF PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIVENESS TO NEEDS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. PROGRAMING IS MORE FINELY TUNED AND PRIORITIES MORE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED. SATISFACTION AND SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSIONS AND CONFIDENCE IN THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES WAS EXPRESSED.

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9. ECON COMMITTEE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION DEBATE ITEM 18 ON REGIONAL COMMISSIONS WITH ADOPTION RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE NAME OF ECAFE TO ESCAP AND FIVE PROFORMA RESOLUTIONS NOTED THE REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS. ARGENTINA NOTED ITS INTENTION TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS TO MODIFY THEIR WORK PROGRAMS AND CONFORM TO RECOMMENDATIONS IN PROGRAM OF ACTION (RESOLUTION 3202, CHAPTER IX, PARA 4) AS WELL AS TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION LEADING TO SPECIAL SESSION IN 1975 (UNGA RESOLUTION 3172).
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